

HORBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

BENJAMIN KEMP,

MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1895.

PRESENTED MARCH 16TH, 1896.

To the Chairman and Members of the Horbury Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District, for the year ending December 31, 1895.

My information as to the sanitary condition of your District has been obtained by frequent inspections, special inspections being made sometimes along with your Inspector of Nuisances, wherever infectious disease was notified. I have also supplied you with a Quarterly Report on the Health of the District.

BIRTHS.—The number registered during the year was 206, against 176 in the two previous years, and 173 in 1892. Of these 109 were boys and 97 girls.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|------------|
| In the 1st Quarter there were | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 males | ... | 21 females |
| „ 2nd „ | „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 „ | ... | 30 „ |
| „ 3rd „ | „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 „ | ... | 24 „ |
| „ 4th „ | „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 „ | ... | 22 „ |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 109 | ... | 97 |

The Birth-rate was equal to 34·02 per 1,000 persons living, as compared with 29·4 last year ; 29·7 in 1893 ; 29·6 in 1892 ; 29·3 in 1891.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.—Out of the total number of Births, 6, or 1 in 34, were illegitimate ; last year there were 7, or 1 in 25.

DEATHS.—During the year there have been 134 deaths registered from all causes, of which 67 were males and 67 females, as compared with 101 last year, 100 in 1893, in 1892 66, in 1891 103.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-------------|
| 1st Quarter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 males | ... | 16 females. |
| 2nd „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 „ | ... | 15 „ |
| 3rd „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 „ | ... | 11 „ |
| 4th „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 „ | ... | 25 „ |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 „ | ... | 67 „ |

POPULATION.—My estimate of the population at the end of the year is 6054, by births plus deaths only, which is an increase of 72 for the year. In 1894 the increase was 75, in 1893 76, in 1892 it was 76, so that the increase varies very little. From these figures we get a death-rate of 22·13 per 1,000 inhabitants. The following table shews the death-rate for the five previous years :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1894 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16·8 |
| 1893 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16·9 |
| 1892 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11·3 |
| 1891 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17·9 |
| 1890 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15·5 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY, I am sorry to say, still continues high, like the two previous years, no less than nearly one half of the whole deaths having occurred under five years of age, the number being 59. Of these 33 were under 12 months old. The proportion of these deaths has been at the rate of 9·7 per 1,000 persons living, or 44·02 per cent. of the whole deaths. The proportion of deaths in infants under 12 months old has been at the rate of 160·1 per 1,000 births.

The following table shows the number of deaths in children under 5 years old, for the 5 previous years:—

| | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1894 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| 1893 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| 1892 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| 1891 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| 1890 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |

The next table shows the number of deaths in each month at different ages:—

| Deaths in 1895. | Under 1 Year | Above 1 Under 5 | Above 5 Under 15 | Above 15 Under 25 | Above 25 Under 65 | Above 65 | Above 70 | Above 80 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| January | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| February | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| March | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| April | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| May | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| June | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| July..... | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| August..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| September | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| October | 8 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| November | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| December | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total..... | 33 | 26 | 5 | 8 | 31 | 31 | 15 | 8 |

The next table shows the causes of these deaths, and compares them with the 5 previous years:—

| Deaths in | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 | 1895 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| From | | | | | | |
| Small Pox | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles .. | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Scarlatina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Membranous Croup | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Typhus Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Diarrhœa and Dysentery ... | 4 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 12 |
| Cholera | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rheumatic Fever | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pyæmia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Phthisis | 6 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| Ague | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bronchitis | 22 | 15 | 16 | 24 | 23 | 29 |
| Pneumonia | | | | | | |
| Pleurisy | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Influenza | | | | | | |
| Heart Disease | 6 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 10 |
| Injuries | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Diseases not named | 44 | 47 | 36 | 49 | 41 | 58 |
| Total | 90 | 103 | 66 | 100 | 101 | 134 |

INQUESTS.—5 Inquests have been held during the year, as compared with 4 in the previous year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year 100 cases have been notified to me, and are classed under the following heads :—

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Scarlatina | ... | ... | ... | 80 |
| Membranous Croup | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Typhoid Fever | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 100 |

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—The deaths from this class are (including Diarrhœa) 22, which include 5 from Scarlatina, 2 from Diphtheria, 2 from Membranous Croup, 1 from Whooping Cough, and 12 from Diarrhœa, all but 2 of the latter being in infants.

SCARLATINA.—80 Cases have been notified compared with 16 cases last year and 47 in 1893. There were in

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| March | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| April | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| July | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| September... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| October | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| November... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| December | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 80 |

With very few exceptions all these cases were in Children attending or associated with the various schools. I have little doubt but many parents allow their children to go out too soon after having this disease, and so mix with other children, and so be one means of spreading it. It assumed quite an epidemic character in October, November, and December.

DIPHTHERIA.—There have been 5 cases notified—3 in March, 1 in April, and 1 in November. I made you a special report on the cases occurring in March and April, and sent a copy to the Local Government Board, also of 2 cases of Membranous Croup which occurred about the same time. These diseases contributed 2 deaths each.

TYPHOID FEVER.—There have been 6 cases—5 in August and September and 1 in November. The 5 cases occurred in one house; the house was damp, and the surroundings not in a good sanitary state. Quite close to the house was a mistal, where cows were kept, and though the inmates of the house used the town's water, the cows were supplied from a well in the yard, and these persons were supplied with milk from the cows. The well water was sent to the County Analyst, who pronounced it unfit for drinking purposes. The well has since been filled up. In the other case, in November, there did not seem to be anything suspicious to cause it, and I have reason to believe it was imported, as the person came here not well, and soon developed into Typhoid Fever. No deaths occurred.

ERYSIPELAS.—7 Cases have been notified. I believe none of these cases occurred where the sanitary arrangements were defective, and were all simple cases; no deaths.

INFLUENZA.—This disease again made its appearance towards the end of February and continued throughout March. There were a good many cases, mostly of a mild type, though two deaths resulted, but both were in feeble persons.

MEASLES.—In October and November there was an outbreak of this disease, which assumed an epidemic character. So far as I could learn, they were nearly all mild cases. This disease is utterly unmanageable, being infectious before the rash appears, and, consequently, the sickening child is spreading infection among its class-mates before even its parents know what is the matter. Fortunately, there were no deaths.

DIARRHŒA.—We had a great many cases in August, September, and October, with 12 deaths, 10 being infants and 2 quite aged persons.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL and SCAVENGING are carried on as in former years, the privy midden and covered ash-pits being chiefly used. These are cleansed out about once a month by your own men, who are constantly at work, the ashes and night-soil being carted on to land.

The amount of this work done is shewn by 1,243 ash-pits having been emptied and 2,770 loads of night-soil having been removed, also 43 sumps emptied, and 263 loads of sewage removed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, and MILKSHOPS.—There are 35 of these and 2 Bakehouses, which are periodically visited, and were found in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 12 of these, being one more than last year, which are kept in a fairly good state.

CANAL BOATS.—27 of these have been inspected whilst passing through your district, as none stop here. They were all found to comply with the regulations concerning them, and were found in a fair and passable condition.

NUISANCES.—21 Notices have been served regarding deposit of ashpit refuse, defective drainage, keeping pigs in outbuildings, and accumulation and deposit of manure. 20 were abated and 1 not at the end of the year.

NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME EXTENSION AND SEWAGE WORKS.—These works are now fully completed, and are in full working order for the purification and disposal of the sewage; about 7 acres of land being used for the purpose. 40 drainage connections have already been made to the new main sewers.

NEW BURIAL GROUNDS.—The boundary walls have been constructed at the new Cemetery, and a caretaker's house is in course of erection. The new roads and footpaths will probably be made in the new portion this summer.

THE SMOKE NUISANCE.—This has been taken into consideration by your Council, and notices have been served upon the various mill owners in your district, against the practice of emitting dense volumes of smoke from their chimneys, which have had a marked effect.

SAMPLES OF MILK have been taken occasionally, which up to the present time have been found of good quality.

NEW BUILDINGS, &c.—During the year plans were submitted and approved by you of the following buildings, viz.:—New houses, 40; new school, 1; public building, 1; additions and alterations to houses, 12; wooden erections and out-offices, 3. A new causeway has been also laid at Horbury Bridge.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

B. KEMP.

TO THE WORTHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

The population of your District has increased at such a rapid rate since the last census, that it is difficult to gauge the actual amount of increment; but after careful thought and consideration I have computed it at 10844 and it is on this number that the following rates are based. The registered births numbered 339, equal to a rate of 28.4 per 1,000 per annum, as against 25.7 in 1924, and 20.6 in 1925. The number of deaths was 135 giving a mortality rate of 12.4 as compared with 9.7 in 1924, 11.4 in 1925, 11. in 1926, and 20.6 for the large towns. There is thus an increase in the birth-rate, and an apparent increase in the mortality rate, due mainly to the greater number of deaths from premature births, viz: 11 as against 2 in the previous year.

37 deaths occurred under 5 years of age, giving an infantile mortality of 112 per 1,000 births; 12 between 1 and 5, 5 between 5 and 15, 6 between 15 and 25, 12 between 25 and 45, and 40 (whose ages averaged 72) at 45 and upwards.

One death was due to Scarlet fever, (an infant) one to Diphtheria, one to whooping cough, four to Measles, 11 to Pertussis, 19 to Bronchitis and other pulmonary affections, 9 to heart diseases, 11 to cancer, 19 to premature births, and one to an accident. Three deaths were uncertified, and 11 inquests were held.

With the exception of Scarlet Fever the District throughout the year was practically free from epidemics. The latter disease however was very prevalent in Bristol and its suburbs, our share being represented by the 30 cases notified as against 40 in 1924, one case only being fatal.

Smallpox also broke out almost on our borders, but fortunately did not invade our district.

No cases of Measles came under my observation.

Ten cases of Diphtheria were notified, one only proving fatal. In 6 of the cases this disease occurred the drains were found defective, and in other instances I found that lye-houses had been allowed close to the back entrances to the houses, and I believe the effluvia from these, as a factor towards the production of the illnesses, and notices were served ordering their removal. Four cases of Typhoid fever were brought to our notice, two of which were imported. In one case, suspicion rested upon the water-supply, which was derived from a well, and this was cleared out. Two of the cases were removed to Hospital. Of Erysipelas 13 cases were notified.

Accompanied by your Inspector, I made my annual special inspection of the District in the Autumn, visiting at the same time the lye-houses, dairies, and public slaughter-house. These were all found satisfactory, and with regard to the lye-houses, I was glad to report continuous improvement each year, much more attention being paid to their internal sanitary condition and general surroundings. Two houses were condemned as unfit for habitation (including in one case overcrowding) and steps were at once taken to put them in proper repair.

The recent inauguration of the new sewerage works so thoroughly complete and efficient in their operations, is a fact of vital sanitary importance to your District, enabling your Authority to dispense for all time with the old cesspits (formerly inevitable) which were so objectionable and fraught with far-reaching dangers to the community.

The recent extension of the District, coupled with the rapidly increasing character of the population, brings us

face to face with additional responsibilities and requirements. Hitherto we have successfully stamped out all threatened epidemics by simple means, and small pecuniary outlays. Now, the task will not be so easily accomplished, and to aid us in our efforts the erection of a Hospital for infectious diseases becomes a pressing necessity, and I am gratified to know that your Council has anticipated this want, and that plans for the erection of such a building are in a forward state. Thus equipped, our sanitary administration will be very complete, and we shall be justified in hoping for a continuation of the satisfactory character of our statistics, which heretofore have been as favorable as any of the fashionable sea-side resorts.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Edw. Barry
Esq. M. D. H.

Bristol
Feb. 1896

There is a large number of persons who are not
satisfied with the present state of affairs, and
who are desirous of seeing some change made.
The people are not so easily satisfied as they
were formerly, and they are not so easily
satisfied with the present state of affairs.
The people are not so easily satisfied as they
were formerly, and they are not so easily
satisfied with the present state of affairs.
The people are not so easily satisfied as they
were formerly, and they are not so easily
satisfied with the present state of affairs.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

Wm. H. H.

Wm. H. H.